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Philadelphia 30th Jan 1782. 235:101

Sir On the 14th day of August last, we had the satisfaction to communicate to Congress a duplicate of our Commission to attend on that Honorable body for the purpose therein mentioned. we have now the honor to inclose a duplicate of our reappointment together with instructions to further negotiate the business of our appointment Our Colleague who was expected in town before this time has occasioned the delay of this account. Whenever he arrives (who is hourly expected) we shall then be ready to lay before Congress such papers and matters as we are or may be furnished with on his arrival

We have the honor to be with great respect. your Excellencys most obed Humble Servants

Jonas Fay
Jno. Allen

His Excellency ye President of Congress.

Philadelphia 5th February 1782 235:102

Sir

We have the Honor to transmit herewith (for the perusal of the Honorable Committee) copies of the following papers Viz.

Governor Chittenden's order to Major Gen Boyne dated 14 Dec 1781

Major Boyne's letter to the Honorable Benedict Arnold Esqr 21st December 1781

Lieut Governor Payne's appointment and instructions to General Enos and William Nagel Esqrs December 21st 1781.

and a letter from General Enos to Ira Allen Esqr to the Hon. Elisha Bostwick Esqr 29th December 1781. Copy of a letter under the signature of Peter Sonsmoot Esq, dated 1st December 1781 together with an answer thereto under the signature of Col Ebenezer Wallenridge dated December 19th 1781 which together with Vermonts proposal of October last on the subject of settling boundary lines containing the principle proceedings between us and Hampshire grants York and Vermont since August last, are or ever Colleague (Mr Gentry) is not yet arrived we have nothing further to add at present, but that we propose to proceed on the business of our mission whenever it may be agreeable to honorable Committee. We are your honors most obedient and very humble servants

Jona Fay

Hon Samuel Livermore Ira Allen

Philadelphia February 7th 1782 235:103

The Honorable Committee of Congress

The undersigned, delegates for the state of Vermont by virtue of their appointment and Commission to repair to the American Congress, for the purpose therein mentioned, and in pursuance of their special instructions, by the Governor & Council of said state, have the honor to represent.

That the Citizens of that part of America, formerly known by the name of the New Hampshire Grants, did, in consequence of certain disputes subsisting between them, and some of the British colonies in America, form themselves into committees of safety and conventions for the preservation of their just rights against lawless power, soon after the edict of Great Britain in July 1764. That this kind of Government was continued by adjournment and new elections until after the grand Era of American independence, and until the 12th day of March 1778 when it emerged into a constitutional Legislature

That immediately after the Battle of the 19th day of April 1775 at Lexington, those inhabitants took an offensive part against British usurpation, and have since exerted themselves in common with their brethren in America in support of the rights, liberties and independence of the United States

That the existance of the state of Vermont, upon revolutionary principles is at least equal with any of the free states of America and founded on the same grand basis of Liberty, & therefore in their conception entitled to a participation of every blessing and privilege, which the United States do, or may in future

enjoy by virtue of their stipulated Union and confederation
each with the other
We therefore take this method to express our wishes, and do in
behalf of the said State of Vermont. solicit and most earnestly
request that the United States in Congress assembled would
recognize her independence, and admit her into the
federal Union. of the United States of America, and to a
seat in Congress. that she may yield and receive mutual aid
in the general defence, and obtain an equitable settlement of
her boundary lines.

Done in Philadelphia in obedience to the instructions
aforesaid. this seventh day of February 1782 and in the seventh
year of our independence

Jonas Fay
Ira Allen
Abel Curtis

Honorable Samuel Livermore
Chairman.

Philadelphia July 12th 1782 235:124

The Hon Committee of Congress

The undersigned delegates of the State of Vermont, beg leave to observe, by way of addition, that in royal governments in America, when regal power ceased, the people were left then at full liberty to institute such government as might appear to them to be most conducive to their peace and happiness. In this situation a respectable number of the now citizens of Vermont in the eastern union (so called) formed themselves into committees of safety and conventions. the other part connected with New Hampshire, in a temporary compact only, which they have since rejected and united with the aforesaid convention. by which they have been since governed, except when in connection with Vermont and in this situation were those inhabitants when the convention now formed that united the Grants east of Connecticut river to Vermont. by which they were admitted into union with her on the two following conditions viz. First. That the existance of Vermont should be held sacred and inviolable that is east of any dispute, respecting boundary lines of jurisdiction. 2dly To be settled agreeable to the mode prescribed by the articles of confederation, or by such other way as should be mutually agreed on. That New Hampshire by extending her claim west of Connecticut river have extinguished, or rendered uncertain her west boundary line by the royal determination in the year 1764. which affords a strong plea in support of the right of a jurisdiction in the settlement of said line. so earnestly to be wished for in order to give satisfaction to so large and respectable body of people. three fourths parts of whom (at least) are firmly attached to the government of Vermont, and among whom officers civil and military are duly elected and qualified as the laws direct.

That they have many agreements and records (which are now out of present prospect of) to justify their right to a union with Vermont or at least a hearing in the settlement of the dispute

not to mention their universal requisition of New Hampshire.
to unite in convention in order to form a permanent plan of
Government, or the late extraordinary act of New Hampshire.
Which explicitly acknowledges the above assertion. and in its effect
peculiarly tends to obliterate the affections of those people from that
Government; and its neglect of the frontiers exclusive of the act of the
Honorable Congress of the 24th day of Sept. 1776. recommending to the State
of New Hampshire not to exercise jurisdiction over them
That about the year 1763 a plan was set on foot by some of the
inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants together with Philip
Skeen Esqr. for forming a new Colony and such was to include
the said Grants. and to extend at least to Hudson River on the west;
to the forty fifth degree of north latitude on the north and to
Massachusetts on the south
And in consequence of their plans application was made to the court
of Great Britain by the Skeen for that purpose. who has since
been well known among the British by the title of Sir William Skeen -
That there are papers now in the State of Vermont under the
signature of the said Philip Skeen on the subject of his appointment
to government dated about December 1764 mentioned among
other things that he should soon call on those people to shew loyalty
to the King. These papers might reflect much light on this subject
and perhaps amount to a satisfactory proof that the said Philip
Skeen did actually succeed in the aforesaid plan, and they on the
principle of loyal lines overturn the pretentions of the claiming
States, even on their own stating. With respect to what connexion
may have been between the people in the western union and the
state of New York, we perceive that of allegiance
and protection are reciprocal, when the latter is withdrawn
the former is of course void, and the people left to provide new
guards for their future safety; and this is consonant with the
declaration of independence of the United States. and the Constitution
of New York. And, That there is at least eight tenths of the
people in this union who are in favour of the Government of
Vermont & Officers civil & Military elected and duly qualified

That many of the leading Gentlemen in both the
aforesaid Unions, who are opposed to Vermont have
been repeatedly heard to say that they have no objection
to unite with Vermont if it were agreable to the
Honorable the Congress
and that a vindication of the rights of the people both eastern
and western Union. they to unite with Vermont is
postponing more fully by a committee appointed by
authority for that purpose, and will undoubtedly
be soon published

We have the honor to be Gentlemen your most obed.
humble Servants

Jonas Fay
Ira Allen
Abel Curtis

Philadelphia 12th July 1782

To The Honorable Samuel Livermore
Chairman &c.

Philadelphia 16th February 1792

235:105

Sir

As it is clearly reasonable, (in our opinion) that we should be indulged with copies of any act or resolution of the State of New Hampshire or New York, which respect the dispute between those States and the State of Vermont, which we have the honor to represent We therefore wish to be favored with copies of any such papers as are lodged in the Secretary's Office, and which have not been sent to the Seat of Government, and in particular, an act of the Legislature of the State of New York, bearing date about the middle of October last, and are with great respect

Your Excellency's most obed
Humble Servants

Jonas Fay
Ira Allen
Stud Centis

His Excellency
John Hancock
President &c

Philadelphia 21st February 1792

235:107

Sir

In pursuance of your appointment and instructions we have had the honor of transmitting to your Excellency, and of laying before a Committee of the Honorable Congress, sundry official papers, which we informed have been then under consideration. But when we consider that a multiplicity of business must unavoidably engross the attention of Congress who are charged with the guardians of the rights of a numerous and free people we are not urgent for any hasty determination relative to the State of Vermont. We however cannot doubt, but in due time that State will be admitted as an additional gem in that Crown, which, of late receiving from discovery has been the peculiar favorite of Heaven, and records the astonishment of the world permit me, Sir, to mention that, as we have no additional matter to lay before Congress, at present — or it is probable another Campaign is approaching and as the Legislature of Vermont expected soon returned previous to completing the estimates for the current year it is necessary we should soon take our leave of this City, for as much as no time ought to be lost in attending to that business, persuaded at the same time that measures destructive to the peace & tranquility of Vermont will be pursued in the absence of her delegates — That we have the fullest reason to believe the most vigorous exertions will be made by the Legislature for a talented ~~defence~~ exertions will be made by the Legislature for a talented defence of her extensive frontiers. and that, by the interposition of Heaven, and the friendly aid of the United States. She will be able to repel any force, which the enemy can send against her. In the mean time every

measure will be pursued to cultivate peace and harmony with her neighbouring States, which may be conducive to the tranquility of the rising empire of America. We have the honor to be your Excellency, most humble servant

Jonas Fox
Ira Allen
Gent Council

His Excellency John Hanson
President &c

Sorlington Mouch 16th 1782. 235:109

Sir

I had the honor to receive your Excellency's favour of the 7th of January. by Express - I am not insensible that the delicacy of your situation in the enfeild, renders it ineligible for you to address me in my publick Character — Your noticing us therefore in your private capacity endears our circumstances. I beg leave to esteem as the strongest mark of your magnanimity and friendship.

While we receive with gratitude the resolves of Congress of the 7th and 21th of August last. it affords us great satisfaction. that your Excellency is willing to consider them as implying the right which Vermont claims to be a State within certain described bounds, and as the dispute of Boundary is the only one that hath prevented our union with the confederacy. I am very happy in being able to acquaint your Excellency that. that is now removed on our part. by our withdrawing our claims upon new Hampshire & new York and by confining ourselves solely (or very nearly) to that tract of Country which is described in the resolves of Congress of the 24th of August last. Since therefore, we have withdrawn our jurisdiction to the confines of our old limits, we entertain the highest expectation that we shall obtain, what we have so long been seeking after, an acknowledgement of independence and sovereignty.

For this we have appointed commissioners with plenary powers. to negotiate an alliance with the confederated states, and, if they succeed to take seats in Congress.

should Heaven unroofen the design of their negotiations: and please ourselves meech that we who are of one sentiment in the common cause. and who have but one common interest. shall yet become one nation. and yet be great and Happy.

The Glory of America is our glory — and with our country we mean to live or die. as her fate shall be. I have no need to acquaint your Excellency that our local, or mill as our Military (not to say political) situation. as an extended frontier, carefully exposeth these infant plantations to the power and fury of the common Enemy

Might we be so happy as to draw the attention of our Country, we hope to be favoured with your particular exertion

I have the Honor to be.
Sir
With great respect
your most Obt
and Humble Servant
Thomas Chittenden

(Omitted in place)

P.S. This will be delivered by one of our agents to whom I beg leave to refer your Excellency for the more particular situation of this State, with regard to the military preperations and state of defence

I am &c
Thomas Chittenden

His Excellency
Gen Washington

From the London Courant dated April 29th 1782

Friday evening dispatches were recived at the admiralty and the American department from sir Henry Clinton and Amiral Digby at New-York which were brought over by the Sandwick packet brit. Capt Dillon who arrived at falmouth on the 20th after a voyage of twenty-one days

the most important part of the intelligence brought by these despatches is as follows

That commissioners from Vermont had met with persons apointed by Gen. Haldimand offered to become subject to the crown of Gred Britain upon the following terms (viz)

first that the territory as claimed by the Vermonters constituted a separate and distinct colony or Government

secondly that the same form of Government be granted unto them which was formaly enjoyed by Connecticutt excepting that the Governor of the Province should from time to time be nominated by the crown

thirdly that they be allowed to remain during the presant contest unless the war is caried within their territory

thirdly that they would raise two battalions properly officered for their internal defence these troops to be British pay and not to be called into service unless in defence of the Province that they be allowed a free to Canada and be protected therein. These are all the particulars that could be obtained respecting the terms held out by the said commissioners the papers were delivered to Gen. Haldimand who conceiving the matter of too important a nature for him to deride upon

transmitted them to Sir Henry Clinton as one of the
Kings of great Britains Commissioners for restoring
Peace by whom they were laid before Justice William Smith
who gave it as his opinion that the Power vested in the Kings
Commissioners did not authorise them to determine a matter
of so much Consequence and of so singular a nature
that as nothing short of one act of Parliament would
be sufficient for the purpose the Papers relating to this
Matter should be laid before the Kings Council that
the necessary steps may be taken which is accordingly
done

A true Copy of the foregoing Handbill
per Mr James Breakinridge

Province of
Gentlemen

New York May the 9th 1782

Received yours of the 22d ult & marked well the contents — and have to observe that extraordinaries Expected in about three weeks a Gentleman of undoubted verasity who is well acquainted with all and every of the particulars in your Letter will be with you and from thence to Gen. Haldimand who is personally acquainted with him and many of our friends in Canada he will give every satisfaction that the Gen. or you desire which is a safer and much better way of transacting matters than by writing have onley to add that as the Gen.s Honor is not in the least disputed with us we are happy to have it in our power to give him the same confidence in us part of which has or will soon come to hand and the completion of its evidence by the Gentlemen before alluded to pray do not hazard any more by writing for by so doing you expose your friends and the object of our wishes.

These are the last lines we dare let run the gantlet to you while matters are so dangerous and expect that you will write no more for the imbarrasments considered matters work very well — that you will not be disappointed except in this that Matters are in really in a better condition than you could imagin when you wrote your honours and ours is safe and the ~~Gentlemen~~ Generals confidence has not and will not be in the least abused in all which you will soon be better acquainted as to particulars. Lastly if the fate of War or any unforseen contingency shall interpose and defeat the great object of our designs our vigilence and hazard in

the attempt cannot fail to confirm our veracity in the undertaking and in the prosecution to which we affix our seals the day and date aforesaid ——————

And remain your affectionate
Obedient and
Humble Servants

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Arlington 16th Oct 1782

Sir

Your Excellency's favourable Letter of the 8th of Augustt last has been duly received: Influenced by Your Kind benevolent treatment towards Prisoners and by the urgent and repeated requests of the friends of Capt Sherwood and Lieut. Bolden I was induced to ask the favour of their being admited to visit their respective families on parole which favour having been granted is considered by the people of this State as a farther striking proof of British Generosity towards them. Who were drawn into this unfortunate War, by the General calamities of their Country and after a long and spirited perseverance, were left to themselves to Govern their own internal and External Policy, from sympathising feelings for the Sufferings of the Brave, and unfortunate the Councils of this State have been induced to set on foot a Negotiation which having been approved of by your Excellency, Has been the means of releasing the distresses, and may be productive of further reciprocal Good. If any Prisoners of War in future be in the possession of this State, they will be immediately sent for or Exchange

I have the Hon. to be your
Excellency's most obedient &
most Humble Servant
Thomas Chittenden

His Excellency Gen. Haldimand

Copy

Queries from Capt. Sherwood to the Commissioners of Vermont respecting their last proposals of a Proclamation and with the commissioners answer answered (viz)

Query 1st do those Proposals fully coincide with the past opinions of the Gov. and Council or such part of them as wish for a British Government

Ans. Answered in the affirmation

Query 2d What effect for particular advantages will such a Proclamation have in your assembly

Ans. It will lay a foundation for the friends of Government to enter fully on the business authoritively, and facilitate a close of the subject as it will contain the general proposals

Query 3d Will it not tend to enrage them and effectually put an end to any further negotiation

Ans. It cannot allarm the Legislature somuch as to have the subject proposed to them by the Gov. & Council as Congress and the World will be at a loss to judge what occasioned such Proclamation as all former private negotiations on the subject will remain in oblevion

Query 4th Will it not alarm Congress and gain from them a pretended compliance with all the demands of Vt.

Ans. The articals of confederation virtually preclude a compliance nor can it alarm Congress or the other States more than to have the matter litigated at large in the assembly as they are possessed of Lorde George Germain Letter to Sir Henry Clinton

Query 5th Shall you make the Proclamation public or not"

Ans. It will be conveyed immediately on reception to the Speaker to opened in presance of the assembly

Query 6th Do you candidly believe it probable that the Assembly and Populace in General will close with the Proclamation provided it gives them charter privaledges similar to those of Connecticutt or nearly the same

Ans. Our new election warrants the highest probability

Query 7th If the Proclamation should be rejected will there be a probability or even a possibillity of a reunion after such a rejection.

Ans. Even should the proposals be rejected still we are confident it will not effect those who are now in favour of Government but add to the number who would still pursue the grand object

Ira Allen
Joseph Fay

Skeensborough
Sept. 20th 1781

Sunderland Oct. 20th 1782

Gent.

I have been informed that some People in the Province of Quebec have proposed to go with both to Onion River falls and take up my young Appletrees and carry them into said province the trees I set great store by as hoping they may one day furnish that new country with fruitful orchards: Must therefore ask your interference in such manner as you may judge proper to prevent such plunder. The rooth of such trees is not my object it is the roant of having them a growing, ——

I propose for the mutual Good of the contending Powers that no plundering be permited or countenanced either side ——

I am Gentlemen
with due respect your most
Obedient Humble Servant

Ira Allen

To Justice Sherwood &
George Smith Esqrs

Arlington 26th of Oct. 1782

Sir

The state of the matter with regard to the Town of Royalton is as follows (viz) soon after Government was formed here and the Assembly began to grant land a number of Persons som in the State of Massechusetts others in this State petitioned for a grant of that part including the then inhabitance which were about thirty the inhabitance did not join them as part of them had purchased N. York Titles as they were in doubt whether that was good they sent an Agent to enquire into the matter and after he made his Report they all agreed to petition for the whole Township for to be granted to themselves their sons and others who had made improvements in the Town all amounting to the common number of propriators for a Township they thought as they had expended large sums of Money in Lands making Roads Building Mills &c they had the best right to a grant and wholly resolved to receive a Charter in connection with the other persons pay Fees as even to act in favour of Government as a Town except they could have a grant of the whole in that case they woare willing to pay Fees as other propriators did and to aid in full with the Government at the then next session of the assembly those other propreiters who have obtained a grant as aforesaid gave up their claim in order to grant those Inhabitants. and the assembly reconsidered the former grant and granted the whole Town to the Settelers and improvers as above mentioned all this was completed before it was known who was the claimers under N. York and Dor. Witherspoon applyed in favour of Governor Livingston which put it out of the power of this Government to secure to the Governor his share in said Town as the Inhabitants would insist on their grants which I make no doubt the Assembly would been very worthy to have done had the application been made

before the land was actually granted as Governor Livingstons Character is so Commenant in the glorious cause of the liberties of the States in general and this in particular and as I cannot surpose he knew the particular curious stones of this Country when he purchaced his Land in Boyatton ——— I ——— ———

I shall do all in my power to make him Compensation in other Lands should application be made in that way by or for him and the quantities of Land he owned in Boyatton Rown which I think may yet be done either in Vermont forfeited Lands and I make no doubt the Council will join me in this should ~~forfeitures~~ application be made before it is to late ——— ——— ———

Sir as to the Letter proposed to be sent to Congress the Committee appointed to make the draughts have done nothing about it I have moved the matter the Council who decline writing anything of that matter to Congress they think that it is a matter that consernes our own internal affairs which we are fully able to manage and that Congress aught not to be troubled with that or any such like matters as you are not only personly but perfectly acquainted with the whole affair you will doubtless inform any Gentleman or men the State of the matter who may request it ———

I am, Sir, your Hum. Servt.
Thomas Chittenden

To Isaac Tichnor Esqr.